CLAIMS

1. A method for extracting selected time information from a stream of serialized AES digital audio data, comprising:

detecting a first transition (353)indicative of a first preamble of said stream of serialized AES digital audio data;

detecting a second transition (360) indicative of a subsequent preamble of said serialized AES digital audio data; and

determining a time (355) separating said first and second transitions.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said determined time information (362) is suitable for use in decoding said stream of serialized AES digital audio data.

3. The method of claim 2, and further comprising transferring said determined time information (362) to a decoding logic circuit (298) for use in decoding said stream of serialized AES digital audio data.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said time information is determined in the form of a fast clock pulse count (355) separating said first and second transitions.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said first transition and said second transition are separated by thirty-one intervening transitions (357) not indicative of said subsequent preamble of said serialized AES digital audio data.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said determined time information is suitable for use in encoding said stream of serialized AES digital audio data.

7. The method of claim 6, and further comprising transferring said determined time information to an encoding logic circuit for use in encoding said stream of serialized AES digital audio data.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said time information is determined in the form of a fast clock pulse count separating said first and second transitions.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said first transition and said second transition are separated by thirty-one intervening transitions (357) not indicative of said subsequent preamble of said serialized AES digital audio data.

10. A broadcast router (100) comprising:

a decoder circuit (296-1) coupled to receive a stream of serialized AES digital audio data, said decoder circuit extracting time information from said stream of serialized AES digital audio data during the decoding thereof; and

a target component (400) coupled to said decoder circuit (296-1), said target component receiving said extracted time information from said stream of serialized AES digital audio data;

wherein said target component (400) utilizes said extracted time information while executing at least one function thereof.

11. The broadcast router (100) of claim 10, wherein said extracted time information is also utilized, by said decoder circuit (296-1), to decode said received stream of serialized AES digital audio data.